

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 1, 4, 7-9 and 11-14 are amended. The claims are amended to correct their grammar and for clarity. The amendments do not narrow the claims.

Claims 1-7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 over claims 1-7 of parent U.S. Patent Application No. 09/707,956. In addition, claims 8-14 stand provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over claim 1 of Application No. 09/707,956. These rejections are moot as described below.

On January 26, 2005, Applicant filed a Request to Expressly Abandon the above-identified parent Application No. 09/707,956. Thus, once the parent application is abandoned (in addition, Applicant notes that no reply has been filed in response to the October 6, 2004 Office Action in the parent application), the rejections of claims 1-14 are moot.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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